

# Finland & Norway: Birding & Nature Species List | June 3 – 15, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by guide Gerard Gorman with the help of local guide Riku and clients Husam, Carol, Donna, Steven, Lise, Carol, Cyndy, Laurence, Suzanne, Webb, Eileen and Jeff.

Our latest tour to Finland and Norway produced many of the special birds of the boreal and Arctic birds of the region such as drake Steller's and King Eiders, a magnificent male Western Capercaillie, an incredibly confiding Eurasian Dotterel, many Ruff in their varied breeding plumages, displaying Temminck's Stints, the rare Terek Sandpiper, a Yellow-billed Loon in summer plumage, many impressive White-tailed Eagles, the tiny Eurasian Pygmy Owl, an awesome Ural Owl, Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker at its nest, several Siberian Jays, Gray-headed Chickadee up close, Red-throated and Rock Pipits, Pine Grosbeak, Arctic Warbler, Little Bunting, and the endangered Ortolan Bunting. Thanks to our local guides and enthusiastic participants, we recorded a notable total of 174 bird species including an impressive 25 species of wildfowl, 23 shorebirds, 5 grouse, 5 auks, 10 larids, 5 owls, 5 woodpeckers, 7 corvids and 12 finches. A total of 11 mammal species were seen, including both Brown and Mountain Hares, Gray Seal, Harbor Porpoise and the rather scarce, but now returning, Arctic Fox.

Following is a list of the birds and mammals we were fortunate to observe during the trip. Numbers in brackets (-) correspond to the numbers of days the species was recorded. (H) signifies heard only. (I) signifies an introduced, non-native, species.

**Family or Species Common Name: Scientific Name**

## BIRDS

### DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae

**Graylag Goose** *Anser anser* — (6) Scattered sightings, often of pairs, in both countries.

**Tundra Bean-Goose** *Anser serrirostris* — (2) Two sightings, both in Arctic Norway.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis* — (2) One sighting near Oulu in Finland and pairs seen on Hornøya island in Norway.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* — (1) One sighting near Oulu in Finland.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* — (9) Common and widespread.

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* — (1) Seen around Oulu in Finland.

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula* — (1) One sighting near Oulu in Finland.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* — (1) One sighting near Oulu in Finland.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* — (1) One sighting near Oulu in Finland.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope* — (3) Several seen in the Oulu area in Finland.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* — (6) Fairly common in Finland, some seen in Norway.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* — (3) Scattered sightings in both countries.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas crecca* — (8) Fairly common and widespread.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula* — (9) Common and widespread, more so in Finland.

**Greater Scaup** *Aythya marila* — (1) One sighting on a lake in Norway.  
**Steller's Eider** *Polysticta stelleri* — (1) One male seen on Varanger Fjord, Norway, on day 12.  
**King Eider** *Somateria spectabilis* — (1) A group seen on Persfjord, Norway, on day 11.  
**Common Eider** *Somateria mollissima* — (5) Common around Varanger Fjord, Norway.  
**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca* — (2) Seen on day 5 in the Oulanka NP, Finland, and day 11 on the sea in Norway.  
**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra* — (3) Several groups of up to 20 birds each seen on the sea off Norway.  
**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* — (5) Seen on several days on lakes and on the sea in Norway.  
**Common Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula* — (10) Common and widespread in both countries.  
**Smew** *Mergellus albellus* — (2) Several seen on lakes in the Kuusamo area.  
**Common Merganser** *Mergus merganser* — (7) Fairly common and widespread, especially in Norway.  
**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator* — (4) Scattered sightings, mostly on the sea off Norway.

#### **PHEASANTS, PARTRIDGES AND ALLIES: Phasianidae**

**Hazel Grouse** *Tetrastes bonasia* — (H) One heard on day 5 in the Oulanka NP, Finland.  
**Willow Ptarmigan** *Lagopus lagopus* — (4) Several sightings in Norway.  
**Rock Ptarmigan** *Lagopus muta* — (4) Several sightings in Norway.  
**Western Capercaillie** *Tetrao urogallus* — (1) One male watched up close near Kuusamo on day 6.  
**Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix* — (2) Seen near Kuusamo: one on day 5 and around 10 at a lek on day 6.  
**Ring-necked Pheasant** (l) *Phasianus colchicus* — (2) Singles seen near Oulu on days 2 and 3.

#### **GREBES: Podicipedidae**

**Horned Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* — (1) One adult male seen on a small pond near Oulu on day 3.  
**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* — (1) One on a lake in Kuusamo on day 4.  
**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* — (2) Several seen on the bay behind our hotel near Oulu on days 2 and 3.

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

**Rock Pigeon** *Columba livia* — (4) A few feral birds seen in both countries.  
**Common Wood-Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* — (4) A few seen, mostly in Finland.

#### **CUCKOOS AND ALLIES: Cuculidae**

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* — (1) Just one seen briefly in Finland on day 7.

#### **SWIFTS: Apodidae**

**Common Swift** *Apus apus* — (4) Only seen in Finland.

#### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae**

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra* — (1) A few seen in the Oulu area.  
**Corncrake** *Crex crex* — (H) One heard in a meadow on the evening of day 3 near Oulu.

#### **CRANES: Gruidae**

**Common Crane** *Grus grus* — (2) A few seen in Finland on days 2 and 6.

#### **OYSTERCATCHERS: Haematopodidae**

**Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus* — (6) Common on the coast of Norway

#### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae**

**European Golden-Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria* — (4) Fairly common on the tundra in Norway.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* — (4) Fairly common in farmland in Finland.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* — (5) Fairly common along the coast in Norway.

**Eurasian Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* — (2) One heard on day 9 and one seen close-up on day 13, one of the real highlights of the trip on the very last day!

#### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus* — (1) Just one seen, on day 8 in Norway.

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* — (6) Displaying and calling birds seen well behind our hotel near Oulu.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* — (1) Just one seen, on day 2 near Oulu.

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres* — (2) A few seen along the coast in Norway.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* — (6) Many lekking males watched in Norway, often at roadsides.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* — (4) Several displaying birds seen in Norway.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba* — (1) A few seen on day 8 on the coast in Norway.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* — (2) A few seen on days 8 and 10 in Norway.

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* — (1) One seen in the evening in the port of Oulu on day 3.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* — (2) Single birds seen on days 9 and 10 in Norway.

**Eurasian Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola* — (4) Scattered sightings including displaying birds and one sat by a roadside.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* — (3) Scattered sightings of displaying birds.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus* — (2) A few seen in Norway on days 8 and 12.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* — (4) Scattered sightings of single birds.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* — (1) Only seen in the Oulanka NP in Finland on day 5.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus* — (1) A few seen at Liminka Bay, Finland, on day 2.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* — (2) A few seen in Finland on days 2 and 5.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* — (5) Scattered sightings in both countries.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* — (7) Fairly common in both countries.

#### **SKUAS AND JAEGER: Stercorariidae**

**Parasitic Jaeger** *Stercorarius parasiticus* — (5) Fairly common in Norway. Both light and dark color morphs seen.

**Long-tailed Jaeger** *Stercorarius longicaudus* — (3) A few seen, sometimes pairs, on the tundra in Norway.

#### **AUKS, PUFFINS AND ALLIES: Alcidae**

**Common Murre** *Uria aalge* — (1) Thousands nesting on Hornøya island, Norway.

**Thick-billed Murre** *Uria lomvia* — (1) Some, dozens, seen on Hornøya island, Norway.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda* — (2) Hundreds seen on Hornøya island, Norway.

**Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle* — (3) Scattered sightings on the sea in Norway.

**Atlantic Puffin** *Fratercula arctica* — (2) Hundreds seen on Hornøya island, Norway.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae**

**Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla* — (5) Common, often nesting in towns, seen in coastal Norway.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* — (5) Fairly common in Finland.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus* — (2) Common on lakes in the Kuusamo area.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus* — (11) Very common and widespread.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus* — (5) Common along coastal Norway.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus* — (4) Common along coastal Norway.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus* — (5) Common along coastal Norway and on Hornøya island.

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* — (1) A few seen at Liminka Bay, Finland, on day 2.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* — (4) Fairly common in Finland.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea* — (5) Fairly common along coastal Norway.

#### **LOONS: Gaviidae**

**Red-throated Loon** *Gavia stellata* — (5) Seen on several tundra lakes in the Arctic.

**Arctic Loon** *Gavia arctica* — (3) Scattered sightings in both countries.

**Yellow-billed Loon** *Gavia adamsii* — (1) One seen on day 10 on a roadside lake in Norway.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae**

**Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (4) Fairly common along coastal Norway.

**European Shag** *Gulosus aristotelis* — (1) Hundreds seen nesting on Hornøya island, Norway.

#### **OSPREY: Pandionidae**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* — (2) Two seen on day 2, one on day 7, all in Finland.

#### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae**

**European Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* — (1) One seen on day 3 near Oulu in Finland.

**Eurasian Marsh-Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* — (1) Two seen on day 2 behind our hotel near Oulu.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* — (2) One seen on day 2 and one on day 8, both in Finland.

**Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* — (1) A male seen at a gas station stop near Oulu on day 2.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* — (1) One seen briefly on the way to Kuusamo on day 4.

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* — (6) Several seen daily along coastal Norway.

**Rough-legged Hawk** *Buteo lagopus* — (3) Individuals seen on 3 days in Arctic Norway.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* — (1) Just one seen near Kuusamo in Finland.

#### **OWLS: Strigidae**

**Northern Hawk Owl** *Surnia ulula* — (2) A family of five seen on day 4 and two on day 6, all in Finland.

**Eurasian Pygmy-Owl** *Glaucidium passerinum* — (1) One seen on day 3 in a forest near Oulu.

**Ural Owl** *Strix uralensis* — (1) One seen on day 2 in a forest near Oulu.

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus* — (1) One seen by the roadside on day 12 in Norway.

**Boreal Owl** *Aegolius funereus* — (1) One seen at a nest box on day 6 near Kuusamo.

#### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

**Eurasian Three-toed Woodpecker** *Picoides tridactylus* — (1) A male seen at its nest on day 2 in a forest near Oulu.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* — (4) Scattered sightings in Finland.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dryobates minor* — (1) Two seen at a nest on day 2 in a forest near Oulu.

**Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius* — (2) Three seen on day 2 and two on day 3 near Oulu.

**Gray-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus* — (1) One seen on day 2 in a forest near Oulu.

#### **FALCONS: Falconidae**

**Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* — (6) Scattered sightings, often at roadsides, throughout.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius* — (1) One seen briefly on day 12 in Norway.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* — (1) One seen on day 3 near Oulu.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae**

**Siberian Jay** *Perisoreus infaustus* — (1) Several seen near Kuusamo on day 6.

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* — (1) One seen near Kuusamo on day 5.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica* — (11) Common and widespread.

**Eurasian Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula* — (3) Fairly common in the Oulu area, often in settlements.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* — (2) A few roadside flocks seen in the Oulu area.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix* — (11) Common and widespread.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* — (11) Fairly common and widespread.

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae**

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus* — (1) Seen on day 6 in the Kuusamo area.

**Gray-headed Chickadee** *Poecile cinctus* — (1) Seen by a nest box on day 6 in the Kuusamo area.

**Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus* — (3) A few seen in Finland.

**Great Tit** *Parus major* — (5) Quite common, but mostly seen in Finland.

#### **LARKS: Alaudidae**

**Horned Lark** *Eremophila alpestris* — (1) A few seen on day 9 on the tundra in Norway.

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* — (1) Just one seen, singing high in the sky, others heard, on day 3 near Oulu.

#### **REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae**

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* — (2) Displaying, singing, birds seen behind our hotel near Oulu.

**Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum* — (1) One heard and glimpsed on the evening of day 3 near Oulu.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae**

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* — (2) A few seen around Kuusamo on days 4 and 5.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica* — (9) Fairly common and widespread.

**Common House-Martin** *Delichon urbicum* — (4) Scattered sightings in Oulu and Kuusamo.

#### **LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae**

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* — (1) Just one seen near Oulu on day 2.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* — (11) Abundant, some seen and many heard most days.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* — (3) A few seen and heard in the Oulu and Kuusamo areas.

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* — (1) One seen on the morning of day 8 in Ivalo.

#### **KINGLETS: Regulidae**

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus* — (2) Seen on days 3 at Oulu and 5 at Kuusamo.

#### **DIPPERS: Cinclidae**

**White-throated Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus* — (1) Seen by the river at Käylä near Kuusamo on day 5.

#### **STARLINGS: Sturnidae**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* — (1) Only seen near Oulu on day 3.

#### **THRUSHES: Turdidae**

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus* — (1) Only seen near Kuusamo on day 5.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* — (1) Only seen near Kuusamo on day 6.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus* — (11) Very common and widespread, several seen and heard most days.

**Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula* — (1) Only seen in the Oulu area, including by our hotel, on day 2.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris* — (11) Very common and widespread, several seen most days.

#### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae**

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* — (4) Scattered sightings of individual birds.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica* — (2) The “red-spotted” subspecies seen on days 8 and 9 in Norway.

**Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* — (1) One briefly seen on day 5 near Kuusamo.

**European Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* — (7) Fairly common and widespread, particularly in Finland.

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* — (2) Seen near Oulu on day 3, heard near Kuusamo on day 6.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* — (2) A few seen on days 2 and 3 in the Oulu area.

**Northern Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe* — (3) Scattered sightings in Norway.

#### **WAXWINGS: Bombycillidae**

**Bohemian Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* — (1) Only seen on day 5 in the Oulanka NP, Finland.

#### **ACCENTORS: Prunellidae**

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis* — (1) A singing bird watched on day 3 near Oulu.

#### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* — (7) Fairly common in urban areas in both countries.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* — (1) Only seen on day 3 in Oulu.

#### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae**

**Gray Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* — (1) Seen on day 5 near Kuusamo.

**Western Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava* — (3) A few seen in both countries.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* — (11) Common and widespread, several seen most days.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis* — (5) Fairly common, particularly in Norway.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* — (3) A few seen in forests in Finland.

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* — (3) Only seen in Norway, where not uncommon.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus* — (2) Seen on coastal areas and on Hornøya island in Norway.

#### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae**

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* — (5) Fairly common in Finland.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla* — (7) Common and widespread, particularly in the Kuusamo area.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus* — (2) Several seen and heard in the Oulu area.

**Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator* — (2) Males and females seen at feeders on days 8 and 12.

**Eurasian Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* — (4) Fairly common, but only seen well at feeders.

**European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* — (6) Fairly common, but only seen well at feeders.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris* — (1) Seen on day 11 on Hornøya island in Norway.

**Eurasian Linnet** *Linaria cannabina* — (1) Only seen on day 3 near Oulu.

**Common Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea* — (5) Fairly common in Norway where seen every day.

**Hoary Redpoll** *Acanthis hornemanni* — (2) Only seen on days 9 and 11 in Norway.

**Red Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra* — (2) Only seen in forests in the Oulu area.

**Eurasian Siskin** *Spinus pinus* — (3) Only seen in Finland, where fairly common.

#### **LONGSPURS AND SNOW BUNTINGS: Calcariidae**

**Lapland Longspur** *Calcarius lapponicus* — (3) A few seen on the tundra in Norway.

#### **OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae**

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella* — (4) Scattered sightings, all in Finland.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus* — (2) Seen and heard behind our hotel in Oulu and in Ivalo.



**Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla* — (1) A singing male seen in Kuusamo on day 6.

**Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana* — (1) Two seen in farmland near Oulu on day 3.

## **MAMMALS**

**Brown Hare** *Lepus europaeus* — (1) One seen near Oulu in Finland.

**Mountain Hare** *Lepus timidus* — (4) Several seen in the Kuusamo region and further north in the Arctic.

**Eurasian Red Squirrel** *Sciurus vulgaris* — (6) Scattered sightings, most in Kuusamo area in Finland.

**Gray Seal** *Halichoerus grypus* — (2) Two sightings, both in Norway.

**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes* — (1) One seen briefly on the way to Ivalo in Finland.

**Arctic Fox** *Vulpes lagopus* — (1) Two seen on day 12 south of Vardø.

**Stoat (Eurasian Ermine)** *Mustela erminea* — (1) One seen at Nesseby in Norway.

**Harbor Porpoise** *Phocoena phocoena* — (2) Two sightings, both in Norway.

**Caribou (Reindeer)** *Rangifer tarandus* — (9) Common, widespread, especially in Kuusamo and north of the Arctic Circle.

**Western Row Deer** *Capreolus capreolus* — (1) One brief roadside sighting near Ivalo.

**Moose** *Alces alces* — (1) One brief roadside sighting near Oulu.